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No. 153

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR of Arizona).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC

October 21, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

Rev. Darrell Armstrong, Shiloh Baptist Church, Trenton, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of Miriam, Deborah, and Esther; Thou who art my creator, redeemer, and sustainer; Thou art from everlasting to everlasting; anoint, O God, bless and guide today's session of the United States House of Representatives.

Grant Thy special grace upon these ordinary women and men who gather in these hallowed walls with extraordinary positions of influence and power.

Give them wisdom, knowledge, discernment, and understanding to make decisions which positively impact the lives of American and world citizens alike. And as Micah charged us in the prophetic scriptures, help us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You, O God.

Bless our international community of nation states, bless our beloved United States of America, and do, God, bless our President.

Out of loving respect to my brothers and sisters of the other faiths—Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu and others—I offer this prayer in the name of the One I call Jesus the Christ. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1818. An act to amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to honor the legacy of Stewart L. Udall, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the Chair announces, on behalf of the President pro tempore, the appointment of the following individuals to be members of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Daniel Klaich of Nevada,  
Cameron Staples of Connecticut, and  
Larry Vanderhoef of California.

### WELCOMING THE REVEREND DARRELL ARMSTRONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome and introduce to my colleagues the Reverend Darrell L. Armstrong, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, in Trenton, New Jersey.

Rev. Armstrong, a native of Los Angeles, California, moved to New Jersey in 1995 to pursue ministerial training at the Princeton Theological Seminary. In 2000, he was elected by near unanimous vote to serve as pastor of the acclaimed Shiloh Baptist Church, which was founded in 1893. As only the third pastor to lead this church over the past 100 years, Rev. Armstrong has helped to double its membership to over 1,800 congregants, and he has solidified Shiloh Baptist's reputation as a thriving and respected church in central New Jersey.

He is the proud husband of Melanie Pinkey and the father of two children, Amaris Kayla and Daniel LaRue.

Rev. Armstrong is one of more than 70 central New Jersey religious leaders here today for meetings with Members of Congress, administration officials, and outside groups. I know that his inspiring prayer this morning will help to guide not only today's session of the House, but also our meetings throughout the day.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### TIME FOR COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the time for comprehensive health care reform is now. Yesterday, in the House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, we had a hearing on the impact on small businesses of our current health care delivery system.

A constituent of mine from Davenport, Iowa, Mick Landauer, came and testified about the challenges his small business faces providing health care to its employees. The challenge is greater when you have an employee like Mick, who suffers from a critical chronic disease like congestive heart failure.

In the last 2 years, he has seen the deductibles for employees go from \$2,000 to \$4,000 to \$8,000 for single individual coverage. That is unacceptable, and that is why Democrats in the House have put forward a comprehensive health care reform bill that is going to provide small businesses with much greater opportunities to find competitively priced products for their employees.

One of the things we have to do is make sure the emphasis on coverage applies to people, no matter where they live, the number of employees they are trying to insure, and to give them more flexibility in a more competitive marketplace. That is why we need to pass this bill and pass it soon.

#### STIMULUS BILL FUNDS EXPENSIVE PR SIGNS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing the Federal Government is really good at, it is wasting money, and thanks to the so-called stimulus bill, there are millions of citizen dollars floating around loose being blown by the wind of the waste-acrats.

The money is not being used to create permanent jobs in the private sector. State governments are using stimulus money for their own pet programs. But States are also required to put up stimulus signs where no projects have even started.

One New Hampshire community was told if they didn't put up a government sign, they wouldn't get any money. Pay for the stimulus boondoggle PR blitz, or no funds. And these signs cost taxpayers up to \$2,000 a piece. Now, here is one of those signs. The Feds are trying to convince people that the stimulus is a success. Of course, there is no work taking place below this sign.

It is easier to create million dollar public relations signs than it is to create real jobs. The PR propaganda campaign by the Federal Government claiming the stimulus plan is working is an expensive myth.

And that's just the way it is.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. As we move closer to health care reform, let us not lose focus on who exactly we are trying to help.

Our seniors need help as they try to make ends meet between fixed income and increased health care costs. Our families need help as they are living paycheck by paycheck, often postponing doctor's visits. In my district in the Inland Empire, we have at least 217,000 who are uninsured, and this number keeps rising every day.

All of these individuals have nowhere else to turn to. We must not turn our backs on them. I state, we must not turn our backs on them. We have seen what a quick fix can do to health care reform. This only leads to more problems with expensive consequences.

Health care reform must include a public option, where everyone can participate and not be left out in the cold. A public option will bring down health care costs and give individuals and families a choice, instead of leaving them stranded without coverage.

I urge my colleagues to remember who this health care reform is for and not let special interests cloud the picture of real reform. Let's support health care reform.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM SHOULD NOT COST PATIENTS THEIR HEALTH CARE

(Mr. GINGREY of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, health care reform should not cost my patients their health care. In every plan, the Democrats pay for health care reform on the backs of my patients, particularly seniors and those who get health care from their employer.

Our seniors have suffered tremendously since the recession began. However, my Democratic colleagues don't think seniors have paid enough this year, so now they are asking our seniors to foot the bill for health insurance reform by cutting Medicare by \$50 billion. And despite our tough economic times, the Democrat plans would fund the health reform plan by creating massive new taxes on employers that will result in as many as 5.5 million jobs lost.

Don't believe me? Ask the 22 Democrats who signed a letter to Speaker PELOSI on July the 16th telling her that the Obama plan could increase small business taxes to 50 percent. Fifty percent, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, health care reform should not cost my patients their health care.

#### MARKING NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I rise today to recognize National Save for Retirement Week, which started on Sunday and will last until Sunday, October 25th. This week encourages Americans to prioritize the important responsibility of saving for their retirement. I am proud that earlier this year the House of Representatives passed my resolution marking the importance of this week.

Not enough Americans are putting money away for retirement. While more Americans started to save recently, we do not know yet whether this will be sustained.

According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, less than two-thirds of workers or their spouses are currently saving for retirement, and the actual amount of retirement savings lags behind the amounts families will need to fund their retirement years. The average 401(k) account has just over \$45,000, far below the amount needed to finance retirement for most Americans.

So even in these challenging financial times, this week serves as an important reminder that for all of us it is never too early or too late to begin to save for retirement.

#### SMALL BUSINESS SHOULDN'T BE PUNISHED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I have been a family physician for over 30 years, and that is why I believe the Democrat health care reform proposals being circulated in Congress right now are bad for American families, bad for American seniors, and bad for American small businesses.

If we allow a government takeover of health care, a \$544 billion surtax is going to be imposed on the so-called rich to pay for this awful plan. Who are these "rich" people, Mr. Speaker? They are small business owners. Small businesses create 7 out of 10 jobs, yet we are about to cripple employers and guarantee that the 10 percent unemployment rate that we currently face will only continue to rise. The result of these new taxes on jobs will be the loss of an estimated 5.5 million jobs.

Overall, Americans will suffer \$820 billion in new taxes; another broken promise by the President. Democrats also want to impose another \$208 billion in new taxes on businesses that can't afford to pay for their employees' health care.

Why are Democrats pushing a government takeover of health care?

#### FINDING DIFFERENT WAYS TO SAY NO TO HEALTH CARE RE- FORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)